



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

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Press Release Announcement – May 7, 2009 - For Immediate Release

PLANTING UNDERWAY, USDA SURVEYS CROP ACREAGE AND STOCKS

[PHOENIX, ARIZONA] – How many acres of cotton and alfalfa have farmers planted this season? Has the total area planted to principal crops declined, as expected? Are more grain stocks continuing to be stored on-farm versus off?

The June Agricultural Survey, conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), will help answer these and other critical questions about the production and supply of major commodities for 2009.

“The June Agricultural Survey, also known as the Crops/Stocks Survey, is one of the most important surveys conducted by NASS,” explained Steven Manheimer, director of the NASS Arizona Field Office. “This survey will provide the first clear indication of the production and supply of major crops in 2009.”

Earlier in the season, NASS surveyed farmers' planting intentions and issued the Prospective Plantings report. This report indicated that producers in Arizona expected to plant less cotton and wheat but more hay and corn.

“With planting underway, now is the time to find out what is actually going into the ground. This information will benefit farmers and the entire agricultural industry by providing timely and accurate data to help them make critical business decisions,” said Manheimer.

Beginning in early June, NASS will contact 400 Arizona producers by mail or telephone and ask them to provide information on what commodities they planted, how much they planted, and how much they have stored on their farms. The information will be compiled, analyzed, and

then published in a series of highly anticipated USDA reports, including the annual Acreage report and quarterly Grain Stocks report, both to be released on June 30.

As is the case with all NASS surveys, federal law protects information provided by respondents. NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses, ensuring that no individual producer or operation can be identified. All reports are available on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Arizona Field Office at 1-800-645-7286.

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